

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF BARNWELL )

RESOLUTION

2015-4-435  
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In Support of Prescribed Fire

FILED FOR RECORD  
2015 APR 15 AM 10:10

WHEREAS, the Barnwell County Council recognizes that prescribed fire provides multiple ecological, economic and cultural benefits to the citizens of Barnwell County;

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a traditional land management practice and public safety tool that helps prevent and lessen the severity of wildfires, reducing the loss of private property and saving lives while acting as a preventive measure saving taxpayers the cost and hazards to local government's public safety and fire fighting officials who respond to wildfires;

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a valuable tool used by forest landowners and managers in reducing hazardous fuels, reducing the risk of destructive wildfires, preparing sites for both natural and artificial forest regeneration, improving access to and the appearance of land, and controlling detrimental insects and forest diseases;

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is used to restore and maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, and to manage wildlife habitat for many species;

WHEREAS, many rural economies depend on prescribed fire to manage habitat for game species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey and bobwhite quail whose hunting economy is vital to SC;

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is used to manage for songbirds and other non-game wildlife species, and for fire-dependent plants, and is a vital tool to maintain aesthetically-pleasing landscapes, all of which bring in substantial tourism dollars to SC;

WHEREAS, the SC Forestry Commission is authorized by various SC state laws to control wildfires, administer burning laws, and provide other forestry assistance, and the commission promotes prescribed burning as a valuable forest management tool;

WHEREAS, the SC General Assembly passed the Prescribed Fire Act in 1994 (amended in 2012), defining prescribed fire thus, "Prescribed fire means a controlled fire applied to forest, brush, or grassland, vegetative fuels under specified environmental conditions and precautions which cause the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and allow accomplishment of the planned land management objectives.";

WHEREAS, prescribed fire helps keep SC's forests healthy -- and those forests, in turn -- provide ecological services such as clean air and clean water and contribute to the quality of life of the state's citizens and to local economies;

WHEREAS, prescribed fire practitioners provide public health benefits by burning under carefully-planned weather conditions, reducing the unplanned smoke from wildfires, thus contributing to the air quality of SC by promoting healthy forests that serve as "air shed contributors;"

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a traditional land management tool in the South that has been practiced for thousands of years and is an integral part of SC's cultural and natural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Barnwell County Council supports the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in SC,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Barnwell County Council supports the SC Forestry Commission, SC Department of Natural Resources, Clemson University, The Nature Conservancy, the SC Prescribed Fire Council and others as they strive to provide educational and technical assistance to landowners in an effort to recognize the benefits listed above,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Barnwell County Council urges Air Quality Regulators to work closely with all state agencies and landowners in a fair and balanced approach to smoke management,

This Resolution adopted by the Barnwell County Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

BARNWELL COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

  
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David Kenner, Chairman

  
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Kim Futrell, Clerk to Council